

# DADABASE

VANCOUVER, BC INFO@DADABASE.CA

Kevin Bright is a self-taught artist who has been living and making art in New York City since 2000. Fascinated by random patterns that appear in the city such as ripped paper, sidewalk and subway stains and graffiti, Kevin started to make art at the same time that he began to learn about New York's legacy of abstract paintings. Ellen Gallagher, Clyfford Still, Cy Twombly, and Donald Baechler were among the artists who made a lasting impression on him and helped define the direction of his work.

Bright's abstract paper works involve a long process through which he first paints on both sides of several sheets of paper and, once dried, shreds them into strips that then are interwoven into rectangular pieces. In this process of painting, cutting and weaving, the randomness of compositions is doubled, giving his art a unique organic presence similar to a collage. By exposing the materiality of a painted surface on both sides and its edges, Bright's compositions utilize painting as a new medium for creativity and help the viewer see what paintings are truly made of.

Conceptually, these works highlight the flexibility and fragility of paper works, and the aesthetic possibilities that a three-dimensional transformation of paper can add to two-dimensional works. Bright's compositions are sculptural patterns in which the physical properties of painted and bent paper dictate the final form the pieces assume, creating a situation in which a thing is exposed to be made of its outside but also its inside. Here, the randomness and unpredictability of the paper stripes' movement is formally constrained by their uniformity, at the same time that the painterly carelessness of the original painting is constrained by the linear consistency of the stripes of paper.

Kevin Bright studied fashion at the International Academy of Design in Atlanta, Georgia. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Mohammad Salemy is an artist and the curator of the DADABASE Gallery. He is also known for his writing and activism. A graduate of Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, he is currently studying for an MA in Art History at the University of British Columbia. His work has been included in solo and group exhibitions locally and nationally. This summer, he is completing an internship at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.